New York, N. Y.

August 31, 1945.

Mr. Hoover:

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE .. 1 1 . 8 . 18 . BY . 7 !

On Wednesday afternoon, August 22nd, Captain Vincent Astor, now in civilian life, was given a Navy Commendation Ribbon for Meritorious Performance of Duty, in connection with his handling of the so-called "fishing fleet". The award was made by Vice Admiral Herbert F. Leary, Commandant of the Eastern Sea Frontier.

If this has not already been called to your attention, in the event that you consider such appropriate, it is suggested that you might wish to drop Captain Astor a note congratulating himupon the commendation. His home address is 120 East End Avenue, New York, N. Y.

CONROY

New York, N. Y. September 13, 1945

Mr. Hoover:

There is attached hereto a letter addressed to you by Vincent Astor which he asked me to give to you upon your arrival in New York.

E. E. CONROY

To the state of th

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GMM: MCM September 10, 1945 Captain Vincent Actor, D.S. W.R. 120 Eust End Avenus Hee Tork, Hee Tork Dear Tingents I have furt heard the news about your receiving a your Commendation Ribbon for Meritorious Performance of Duty, and I did want to write you this personal note of congratulation. It is good to learn that this recognition has come to you for it certainly is well deserved. With best wishes and kind regards, Sincerely yours, ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED ec New York 36 PH 20 cations section AILED SEF 11 1945 18M. FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

VINCENT ASTOR
NEWSWEEK BUILDING
152 WEST 42ND STREET
NEW YORK 18, N. Y.

September 12, 1945.

Dear Edgar:

There is about only one circumstance that would prevent my attending the preview of "The House on 92nd Street" and that is the fact that a couple of friends of Mary and me who were particularly kind to us last winter are passing through New York and are spending next weekend with us in Long Island. On that account I regretted Mr. Skouras' invitation, but on the strength of your letter, I now propose to ask for a ticket in the hopes that I can sneak off for a few hours Friday evening if it turns out that I can do so without being too impolite. If not, I do hope that you will let Mary and me know the next time you are here, for it is altogether too long since we last have seen you.

On the subject of people being nice to us, your special agent in charge in Arizona, Horace Duffy, and his wife, Fritzi, left nothing undone to make us happy in Phoenix last winter, where I spent six weeks of my sick leave. I don't know of any couple who were kinder, more thoughtful, and better companions.

Something must have gone wrong either with the Post Office Department or in this building, as your letter which was both dated and postmarked the 8th only arrived on this desk this morning. Otherwise, I would certainly have written you before this.

If things don't work out for me on Friday evening, please seriously let me know when next you are in this vicinity.

With best wishes. RECORDED

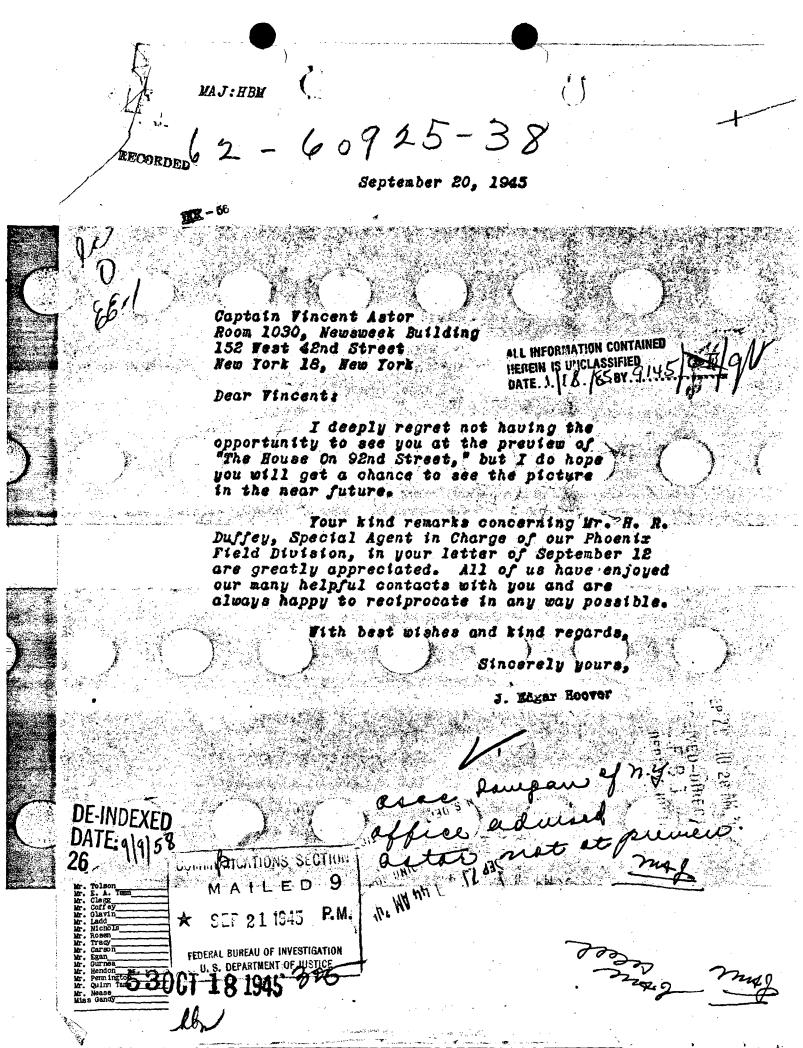
ups sincerely, , c

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DATE 1 14 2 BY . . .

VINCENT ASTOR

Hon. J. Edgar Hoover, Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation.



VINCENŤ NEWSWEEK BUILDING IS2 WEST 42ND STREET NEW YORK 18, N. Y. LONGACRE 5-3600

Mr. Lodd 1 Mr. Clegg Mr. Glavin Mr. Jeho Mr. Rosen Mr. Tracy Mr. Harbo . Mr. Belmont _ Mr. Mohr Tele. Room . Mr. Nease Miss Gondy ..

July 26, 1950

The Honorable J. Edgar Hoover United States Department of Justice Federal Bureau of Investigation Washington, District of Columbia

Dear Mr. Hoover:

G. I. R. -2

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

We have received various brochures on your testimony before the Senate Subcommittee and your report for the year 1949. I just wish to advise you that Captain Astor is in Europe for the summer and will not be back until the end of August at which time I most certainly will show him these reports.

With best wishes, I remain

cfb:mss

Sincerely_yours,

(C. N Bomer)

RECORDED - 124

50'AUG 2 1950 45%

Office Memor ndum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT TO Director, FBI 2/16/55 DATE: FRO SAC, New York SUBJE VINCENT ASTOR ATTENTION: TRAINING AND INSPECTION DIVISION Approved by Bureau STATE OF THE STATE ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED EIL IS UNCLASSIFIED VINCENT ASTOR was born on 11/15/91 in NY. He attended Harvard University 1911 and 1912. He was a Captain active reserve, USN, attached to Naval Intelligence during World War II. He is head of the Astor realty holdings throughout the US. He is a member of Harvard Racquet and Tennis and of many other clubs. He resides at 120 East End Ave., NYC, phone number RE 7-2176, office 152 West 42nd Street, Newsweek Building, phone number LO 5-3600. RECEIVED HANBU IO FEB 11, 1955 EX-124

Letter to Director, FBI VINCENT ASTOR V. DEROGATORY INFORMATION NY File 100-31551, Serial 8131, Page 196, sets out investigated in ALTO Case, telephoned VINCENT ASTOR while staying at the Waldorf Astoria. VI. RECOMMENDATION OF SAC It is recommended that in the future.

Office Men. UNITED S DATE: June 15, 1955 Mr. Tolson L. B. Nichols PHOENIX THEATER UBIECT: Tom Donegan called me to advise that Vincent Astar and his wife both contacted him. Both are concerned over a series of references in Counterattack pertaining to the Phoenix Theater, particularly in the issue of June 3, 1955, wherein the readers of Counterattack are invited to write to Mrs. Vincent Astor, who had endorsed the Phoenix Theater. I got Photostats of the attached issue of Counterattack for Donegan. The comments are quite strong and persistent against Communist infiltration of the Phoenix Theater. The Director of the Phoenix Theater is Norris Houghton, who is a personal friend of Mrs. Astor and who is a friend of Bishop Donegan, of whom Mrs. Astor is a friend. One of the individuals connected with the Phoenix Theater is Another individual connected with this Theater is Howard DaSilva, who has invoked the Fifth Amendment before the House Committee on Un-American Activities and who is an eldtime Communist. I furnished Donegan with the highlights. He expressed his appreciation, cc: Mr. Belmont ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED Mr. Boardman MEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED LBN: arm; gjm 46 JUN 24 1955 70450 10 55 FH 22

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DATE: Director, FBI 7/30/59t Mr. DeLoach Mr. McGuire. SAC, Indianapolis (67-1) Mr. Mohr. Mr. Parsons ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED Mr. Rosen Mr. Tamm HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED MR. VINCENT ASTOR DATE. 1 22 85.BY 9 145 Mr. Trotter_ Mr. W.C.Sullivan Tele. Room_ Mr. Holloman Miss Gandy_ There is forwarded herewith copy of a letter dated 7/17/59 received from Mr. WILLIAM SAGAUD of the law firm of Carter, Ledyard and Milburn, 2 Wall Street, New York 5, New York. This letter was forwarded to me in a personal envelope, and I opened it on my return from annual leave. This letter indicates that the last will and testament of Mr. ASTOR is being probated and that allegations have been made that Mr. ASTOR was incompetent and mentally deficient at the time the will was executed. Mr. GAUD states that in checking the correspondence of Mr. ASTOR he found a letter from me dated 6/9/58 in which I refer to having had lunch with Mr. ASTOR. Mr. GAUD states that he is looking for persons who might be in a position to testify as to the competency of Mr. ASTOR shortly prior to the time that he made out his will, namely, 6/26/58. He desires to know how well I knew Mr. ASTOR, how much I saw of him and the reason for my having lunch with him. Mr. ASTOR had been friendly with Special Agents in Charge of the New York Office since World War II when he was with ONI. He invited me to lunch shortly prior to 6/9/58. The exact date will be shown on my Number 3 Card. The luncheon was purely of a social nature, although it was used as a means to meet Mr. ASTOR I had talked with him on the phone previously, and prior attempts to get together had not materialized because of being unable to find a mutually agreeable date. Mr. ASTOR was friendly and cordial throughout the luncheon, and the conversation, as I recall 2) Bureau (Encl.-3) 37 - New York (Info.) (Encl.-2) 🔏 – Indianapolis 🗐 🦠 ŒJP:mgh Tand Mi Mahr Well: Onto SENT DIRECTOR. FOR APPROYAL

IP 67-1

was mainly concerned with persons he had previously known in the Bureau and general current events. If I were called upon to testify, I would state that Mr. ASTOR carried on our discussion in an intelligent and rational manner.

There is also forwarded herewith a letter dated 7/30/59 directed to Mr. WILLIAM S. GAUD; and in the event it meets with Bureau approval, it is requested that it be mailed. The Bureau will be kept advised in the event there should be any further developments concerning this matter.

A copy of this letter is being forwarded to the New York Office, with an autostat of Mr. GAUD's letter and cc of my reply

Nederal Bureau of Investigation

United States Department of Justice

Post Office Box 1615 Indianapolis, Indiana July 30, 1959

Mr. William S. Gaud Carter, Ledyard & Milburn Counsellors at Law 2 Wall Street New York 5, New York

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE. 1. 2.2 85 BY 9.145 ST. 9

Dear Mr. Gaud:

In response to your letter of July 17, 1959, which I received on my return from vacation, this is to advise that I met Mr. Vincent Astor shortly prior to my letter to him of June 9, 1958, at which time I had lunch with him. This was the only time that I met him, although I had previously talked with him on the phone.

Mr. Astor had been friendly with FBI personnel for several years and had been acquainted with previous Special Agents in Charge of the New York Office. It is my understanding that his contact with FBI personnel started when he was connected with the Office of Naval Intelligence during World War II, and apparently these contacts continued thereafter.

The lumcheon with Mr. Astor was purely of a social nature, and as I recall, we discussed persons 1959 he had previously known in the FBI and general current events.

I trust that this information will answer the question which you ask in your letter.

Very truly yours,

E. J. Powers Special Agent in Charge

- Addressee

) - Bureau L - New York

l - Indianapolis

EJP:mgh (4)

ENCLOSURE 62-60925-45

CARTER, LEDYARD & MILBURN COUNSELLORS AT LAW 2 WALL STREET NEW YORK 5, N.Y.

TELEPHONE

CABLE ADDRESS LEDYARD NEW YORK

July 17, 1959

Mr. Edward J. Powers 327 Federal Building Indianapolis 4, Indiana

Dear Sir:

FOLPA 24 80 72

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HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 1 23. 85 BY 9.145.

This firm has been counsel for many years to Vincent Astor, who died on February 3, 1959, leaving a last will and testament dated June 26, 1958. We now represent the proponents of that will, the probate of which is being objected to by Captain Astor's half brother John Jacob Astor.

The probate of the will is objected to on the ground, among others, that Captain Astor was incompetent, mentally deficient and suffering from senility and advanced arteriosclerosis at the time the will was executed. These charges seem to us preposterous, but they must be met.

In going through Captain Astor's correspondence files this morning I came across a letter from you to him dated June 9, 1958 in which you refer to having recently had lunch with him. As you can imagine, we are very much on the lookout for disinterested third persons who had some contact with Captain Astor at or about the time he signed his will, who might be in a position to testify as to his competency. I have no idea how well you knew Captain Astor, how much you saw of him or what was the occasion for your having lunch with him. I would appreciate it if you would enlighten me on these questions so that I can decide whether your contacts with him are such as to warrant my pursuing the matter further.

I am sorry to trouble you with this, and will be very grateful for any help you can give me.

Sincerely yours,

William 3. Gaud

WSG:map

Office Membrandum · UNITED SILIES GOVERNMENT

FROM: W. S. TAVEL SUBJECT: VINCENT ASTOR

DATE: 8/5/59

Tolson
Belmont
DeLoach
McGuire
Mohr
Parsons
Rosen
Tamm

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
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DATE 1.22.85.84.9.45

Tamm
Trotter
W.C. Sullivar
Tele. Room
Holloman

By letter of 7/30/59, SAC Powers, Indianapolis, enclosed a letter dated 7/17/59 received from Mr. William S. Gaud, of the law firm Carter, Ledyard and Milburn, 2 Wall Street, New York City. Mr. Gaud's letter explained that this firm, for many years, had been counsel for Vincent Astor, who died 2/3/59, leaving a will dated 6/26/58. The law firm represents proponents of the will and Vincent Astor' half brother, John Jacob Astor, is now objecting to the probate of the will, claiming that Vincent Astor was incompetent, mentally deficient and suffering from senility and advanced arterio sclerosis at the time the will was executed. Mr. Gaud explained that his firm is attempting to refute the claim of John Jacob Astor.

Mr. Gaud requested that SAC Powers advise as to his (Powers) opinion of Vincent Astor's competency, in as much as Mr. Gaud had noted that SAC Powers had had luncheon with Vincent Astor about June 9, 1958, approximately the date the will was made. Mr. Gaud stated that a review of Vincent Astor's correspondence reflected a letter written by SAC Powers to Vincent Astor dated 6/9/58 and his firm is hunting disinterested individuals who had contact with Vincent Astor about the time the will was made.

SAC Powers explained that he did have luncheon with Vincent Astor shortly prior to 6/9/58. It was purely of a social nature and was arranged in order that SAC Powers might be personally acquainted with Vincent Astor

This is the only time SAC Power met Vincent Astor, although he had previously talked to him on the telephone on a number of occasions in order to arrange the meeting. SAC Powers enclosed the letter which he proposed to send to Mr. Gaud, dated 7/30/59, which sets forth the nature of the meeting, the fact that it was purely social and indicates the limited acquaintance-ship with Vincent Astor. Powers is not in a position to testify strongly concerning the competency of Vincent Astor during this pertinent period in June 1958, and the letter clearly indicates the limited acquaintance. There appears to be no reason why this letter should not be sent to Mr. Gaud.

WSH:aab^{cal}
(2)
Enclosures

SENT DIRECTOR/ FOR APPROVAL 8-6-59 REC-2662-60925-43

AUG 14 1959

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Memorandum Tavel to Mohr Re: Vincent Astor

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. That the attached letter from SAC E. J. Powers to Mr. William Gaud be sent.

2. That SAC Powers be advised that the letter has been mailed. Appropriate letter is attached.

7

SAC, Indianapolis Reurlet 7/30/59. The letter prepared by you, addressed to Mr. William S. Gaud, has been mailed to him. You should keep the Bureau advised concerning any further developments ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED שנינין Based on Memo Tavel to Mohr WSH:aab 8/5/59. WSH:aab MAILED 2 AUG 10 1959 COMM-FBI

TELETYPE UNIT

UNITED STATE MR. BASSETT

R. D. COTTER 🕻

DATE:

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

SUBJECT:

REQUEST FOR ACCESS TO FBI RECORDS

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY (CIA)

Director Sec Remymemo 10/22/74 recommending that on a carefully controlled basis we allow a review of certain historical FBI records by research specialist, who is conducting in-depth study of events (1940-1947) which led to establishment of CIA. By addendum 10/23/74 Intelligence Division recommended that before any ma terial is shown to the first be reviewed by both Intelligence Division and Division of Legal Counsel. Director also instructed that he should see any material which is critical of other agencies or of Major General William G. Donovan (who is of special interest in project).

One of the subjects in which expressed an interest was the role of Mr. (Commodore) Vincent Astor as a special source of intelligence for President Roosevelt as an "Area Coordinator" in New York beginning March, 1941. A check of Bureau files has determined that we have a main file on Astor, who was a personal friend of former Director Hoover and who was listed as an SAC-contact by the New York Office for a number of years beginning during World War H. Astor was assigned to active U. S. Naval Reserve during the war, first as a Commodore and later with the rank of Captain. He held realty holdings throughout the United States, was socially prominent, and was a well-known yachtsman. He had numerous business, social and news media contacts, not only in this country but throughout the world, particularly in Central America and in the Caribbean area, and as a result he was in a position to furnish the FBI with considerable data of interest to us. Astor died in 1959.

The main file on Astor contains a few vague allusions to his contacts with President Roosevelt and/or the White House, and it is not felt this material should or that it would prove of any help to the latter. be provided to

With regard to Astor's appointment as Area Controller (of intelligence) for the New York area, the file contains several letters or memoranda dealing with this matter, summarized as follows:

During March, 1941, Assistant Secretary of State Berle wrote to Mr. Hoover enclosing a memorandum (which had been approved by the President) which named Astor to the Area Controller post with the mission of coordinating the activities of and eliminating duplication of effort by four U. S. intelligence agencies in the New York area (Justice, War, State and Navy Departments). Shortly thereafter a conference of the interested parties was held and the

ms Mintz, Wannall Enclosures 1) Bufile 62-60925 (Astor) RDC:wmj (6) CONTINUED - OVER

Legal Coun.

Memo for Mr. Basset

Re: Request for access to FBI records

'CIA

was drawn up and agreed to by all concerned, delineating Mr. Astor's role and setting out basic ground rules to insure coordination between the various agencies. There is no indication of any controversy between the various agencies or of any resistance to the project on the Bureau's part. In fact, a summary memorandum prepared for Mr. Hoover on 4/2/41 by Edward A. Tamm and P. E. Foxworth concluded that: "There does not appear to be anything contained in the directive which under presently existing circumstances may be construed as detrimental to the Bureau's investigative jurisdiction or program."

Based on a review of the Astor file, it is felt the following items would be of interest to and can be made availble for his review and use, if he desires:

- l. New York "Journal American" article 2/18/42 reporting Astor's appointment to the Area Controller post at New York.
- 2. Correspondence between Mr. Hover and Astor in July, 1941, concerning investigations of foreign crew lists.
- 3. Memorandum from Messrs. Tamm and Foxworth 4/2/41 summarizing the directive on establishing the position of Area Controller.
- 4. Letter from Mr. Hoover to General Sherman Miles of G-2, 3/31/41 expressing the FBI's willingness to cooperate in implementing the directive.
- 5. Letter to Astor from Mr. Hoover 3/3/41 enclosing a copy of a letter to SAC, New York, and other Bureau officials advising of the establishment of the Area Controller post and ordering the FBI's fullest assistance in this project.
 - 6. Letter to Director of Naval Intelligence from Mr. Hoover 3/31/41 concerning a forthcoming meeting of interested agencies to implement the directive.
- 7. Memorandum from Mr. Hoover to the Attorney General 3/24/41 enclosing a copy of Assistant Secretary of State Berle's letter to the Bureau regarding the Presidential directive creating the Area Controller post.

None of the above-cited items contain any criticism of other agencies or officials nor are they currently sensitive.

ACTION:

The Intelligence Division and the Division of Legal Counsel are requested to review the attached serials and comment as to the advisability of making them

Memo for Mr. Basset Re: Request for access to FBI records CIA available for

review and possible use.

If no objections are made, the writer will arrange to allow review the attached material.



1 - Mr. R. J. Gray, Jr. 1 - Mr. L. McWilliams

Mr. R. J. Gray, Jr.

6/7/77

L. McWilliams

REQUEST FOR ACCESS TO FBI RECORDS BY CIA, CONCERNING THE

EARLY HISTORY OF THE U. S. INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY

To insure that a permanent record is maintained in each case file at FBIHQ from which one or more of a total of 168 documents were copied and furnished to the following list of file and serial numbers is set forth. In order that all case files involved will not unnecessarily contain the total list of the 163 documents that were copied, they have been broken down into several memoranda.

The total list of the 168 documents is being maintained only in FBIHQ file 94-68950.

The following is a partial list of files and serials furnished to

61-7559-47X 62-9798-26X 62-9800-10 62-39749-46,50 62-60950-1-12 62-39749-46,50 62-61392-1 62-55242-6 62-64395-1 62-57405-2 62-57489-27

1 - 61-7559

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